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While the Interstate Commerce Commission Delays the Railroads and the Country Suffer.

The Interstate Commerce Commission evidently has no respect for the adage, "He gives twice who gives quickly." The railroads have been reduced to a state of semi-starvation by the repressive policy of the commission. There have been concerted appeals for a year past from investors and producers, and even from shippers, for fairer treatment of the common carriers. Transportation is a basic industry, and prosperity for the railroads means prosperity for many other interests. If the railroads are underpaid for service and are driven to unnatural retrenchments, everybody who has anything to sell to the railroads or to their employees must also suffer.

The public has long recognized that the starvation programme of the commission is an economic blunder. It favors quick relief. But the commission, influenced by a false pride of opinion, has treated the question of relief as if it were a question of correcting some abstract calculation in celestial mechanics. The patient is suffering from paucity of nourishment, but the commission treats him as if he were a prosperous offender out on bail enjoying all the comforts of home while waiting for a reversal of sentence.

The railroads are getting deeper in the hole every day the commission ponders over the case. Their dividends are threatened and their allowances for maintenance and operation have to be cut. It was announced from Cincinnati yesterday that the New York Central lines had arranged to give their employees enforced vacations without pay of four days each month. The Pennsylvania Railroad has been compelled to do the same thing. These two roads have laid off tens of thousands of men since January 1 because they could not afford to employ them on full time on a non-remunerative basis of operation.

Yet the commission tediously debates whether or not it will give relief to a great industry, put on short rations by governmental regulation, and views with distrust the business community's openly expressed sympathy with the carriers, much as President Wilson views with distrust the protest which the business world is making against confusing amendments of the Sherman anti-trust law and real or pretended exemptions of labor unions from prosecution for conspiracies in restraint of commerce.

There is nothing "psychological" in the hardships which the carriers have endured under the harsh sway of the Interstate Commerce Commission. They have been obliged to improve their equipment, to put in expensive safety devices, pay heavier taxes, state and federal, increase wages as the result of arbitrations, and meet the general increased cost of railroad materials. Yet the regulators in Washington have ignored all these forced additions to expenditure account and vehemently refused to allow one penny to be added through higher freight rates to income account.

It is time to call a halt on this travesty of fair play. If the commission is going to be just to the railroads it ought to bestir itself. It has already lagged too much in the performance of a plain public duty.

A Disgraceful Case.

"Curly Joe" Cassidy may be treated with confinement behind prison bars, but his spirit lives on in the government of Queens County. Under his benign rule everything dispensed by the authorities, from justice to city contracts, bore the Cassidy stamp. That he himself was finally convicted may have been due in no small part to the unlucky chance that his crime and his trial fell into the alien county of Kings.

The trial and conviction of James Heffernan for attacking a sixteen-year-old girl in the "Joe" Cassidy Democratic Club shows that the Cassidy spirit still lives, but that it can be met and beaten down by a courageous judge supported by public opinion. In sentencing the defendant Justice Scudder called the case "disgraceful" and invited "the most thorough investigation" of the methods by which the case was presented to the grand jury. Not only did the people's evidence become the property of the defendant's counsel, but the whole course of the prosecution is declared to have been marked by delay and obstruction.

The investigation should be swift and direct. The crime was outrageous, the effort to interpose political protection gross, and the sooner punishment follows for those responsible the better.

Definite Routes for Mail Trucks.

The suggestion of the Safety First Society that certain definite routes be accepted for mail trucks and adhered to is an excellent one. Laid before the Superintendent of Mails on May 20, according to a statement by the chairman of the society's committee on street traffic, it has not yet been acted on. An answer should be forthcoming promptly.

This is a matter of interest to the public in two ways. The routes laid out by the Safety First Society would shorten the distances to be travelled by the mail trucks between the postoffice and certain important points. Their work is paid for on a mileage basis; therefore the adoption of shorter and more direct routes would save the public money and aid in the better handling of mail. It would also result in taking the trucks off the more congested thoroughfares. It would confine them to streets which would become known as "mail streets," probably, where traffic people, policemen and the residents of the district would be accustomed to them and to watching for them. This would tend to minimize the dangers from them.

Since the aldermen cured the contractors of the notion that there was no speed limit for these

trucks they have been operated more with a view to the public's safety and there have been fewer accidents. Yet every day there is reckless driving and pedestrians are endangered. The adoption of definite routes would help the drivers and help the public.

Baby Week.

This week, devoted to extolling the youngest of the younger generation and implanting vital facts about them in the minds of the oldsters, is a legitimate outgrowth of the recent baby contests. Its purpose is the same—to obtain "Better Babies, Better Mothers, a Better City." And there is every reason to hope that its influence will be as salutary on a large scale as those local affairs were in their neighborhoods, where they have spread education regarding baby's needs which every mother didn't know and awakened intelligent interest in meeting these needs.

Infant mortality is recognized nowadays as something to be dreaded and fought persistently. These seven days of lectures and prize baby contests, of clinics, picnics and outings, should be valuable in two ways—by giving city-bound babies and their mothers an unusual chance to get fresh milk and fresh air and by spreading broadcast in popular form, as it has never been done before, information regarding the care of infants. It ought to have an effect lasting the year 'round, just as the city's clean-up week has proved to have.

A Tragedy of the Air.

Nothing quite like the horrible disaster outside Vienna, in which nine army officers lost their lives, has occurred before in the annals of navigation of the air. Aeroplanes have rammed each other with disastrous results, but it remained for the mimic warfare of the Austrian army manoeuvres to provide a tragic example of what the real air war of the future might be.

There is grim irony in the fact that steamships with all the width of the ocean to travel in must ram each other and cause tremendous loss of life. It is even grimmer that the aeroplane's operator, on a gala occasion, with the dirigible's position plainly to be seen and all the air around the earth to travel in, should lose control of his machine or miscalculate the distance between it and the balloon. Whether on the earth or the sea or in the sky man's life will always pay the penalty for human fallibility.

The Right Kind of Film Censorship.

License Commissioner Bell's use of the powers of his office to censor—by suppressing—"wildcat" moving picture films which offend "decency, morality or the public welfare" may not satisfy those reformers who have been agitating for an official moving picture censor. Yet it is the right kind of censorship in this American community. It is punishment by the authority which permits such exhibitions for failure of the exhibitor to conduct the business with a proper regard for the decencies and the community's interests, exactly comparable with the power which now lodges in the police—and is used when it seems necessary—to force changes in objectionable theatrical exhibitions or their withdrawal.

Censorship of this nature is proper and fits in with the scheme of things. The creation of an official custodian of the public's morals—so far as they could be affected by moving pictures—who shall decide what is good for the public and what it may have, is quite another matter. Official censors of plays, books and newspapers are jokes even in those European countries where they still exist. An official film censor would be even more of an anachronism in this town.

A War of Dollars in Baseball.

The decision of the National Baseball Commission to put a third major league of its own into the field will, if carried into effect, come near revolutionizing conditions in baseball. The object of the national commission is to cut away the ground from under the feet of the insurgent Federal League. The new major league is to take in four Eastern cities in which the International League now operates and four Western cities now in the American Association circuit. Thus organized baseball would get behind a higher class organization in Baltimore and Buffalo, where the Federals have been crowding the Internationals to the wall, and in Indianapolis and Kansas City, where the Federals have also been making inroads on the natural patronage of the American Association.

Such a move means a war between the capitalists behind the Federal League and those behind organized baseball in which many bank accounts will be flattened. Unless the Federal League quickly succumbs, so much money will be lost that the 1914 scale of fancy salaries will have to be slashed and the baseball world will be forced to return after a year or two to forgotten notions of simplicity and economy.

The recent inflation of salaries has not improved the game. Most of the leading teams are playing poorer ball now than they did a year ago or two years ago, and their drawing power is diminishing. If three major leagues are established and the Federal League remains in operation there will not be enough baseball stars to go around. That may be a good thing, since what baseball has needed most in recent years has been a freer opening for untalented. The star system has led to stagnation. The managers and public would doubtless be better off if the field of selection were broadened and more younger players could break into the major leagues and have a better chance there to distinguish themselves.

Popular Interest in Religion.

The popular decline of interest in religion is a frequent topic of discussion in the press. Some Christians admit a decline and lament it, while those who reject the claims of any revealed religion adduce the failure of religion to hold the allegiance of the people as a proof of progress and enlightenment. But, as a matter of fact, is it true that large numbers of men and women are losing all interest in religion? We can see no evidence that such is the case.

The "People's Column" of The Tribune would indicate exactly the contrary. At a time when national and international questions of transcendent importance are up for discussion and settlement a large percentage of the letters in this open forum have to do with questions relating to religion. The people may be modifying or revising some of the traditional conceptions of religion, as they have done in every age, but religion itself holds a place of supreme importance in the minds of all thinking men.

What is really taking place in regard to Christianity is that it is trying to adjust itself to the changed and changing conditions of modern life and to the new science and the new conceptions of man's relation to the universe that have come to be recognized as the ruling ideas of the world.



Needless to say, such an adjustment is difficult and often painful. In the course of centuries Christianity naturally cast its lofty idealistic teachings into such concrete doctrinal forms and statements as best suited the needs of each age. Also it gathered to itself an indeterminate mass of opinions, traditions and practices that were most useful at the time but had no essential relation to Christianity itself. To-day it is being called upon not to throw overboard any of its necessary beliefs, but to modify or reinterpret some of those beliefs so as to bring them more into harmony with modern thought. It is not strange that when it attempts to do this many good Christians are greatly disturbed.

As for Christianity itself, however, there is not the slightest cause for apprehension. It is only suffering from the growing pains of a larger conception of its message and ideals. It will continue to slough off the accretions of tradition and custom that in the course of time have fastened themselves upon it, but what is good and true in it will endure.

It must be remembered in regard to Christianity that we do not approach it as some extraneous fact that we may accept or ignore as we choose. It is a part of our mental and spiritual make-up. It has inspired and largely created the wonderful modern civilization in which we live. Therefore, whatever may be our attitude toward any particular clause in its creed, we must be profoundly interested in the great basic ideals and principles which it has imposed upon the most progressive and intelligent races of mankind.

THE TALK OF THE DAY

How long is a string? That old query suggests another one. How big is a mattress? when you read a sign that is displayed in the bedding department of a big sixth avenue department store. The sign lists prospective buyers: "Felt Mattress; All Sizes, \$174. Smaller Sizes Proportionately Less."

A boy who had been absent from school for several days returned with his throat carefully swathed and presented this note to his teacher: "Please don't let my son learn any German to-day; his throat is so sore he can hardly speak English."—Everybody's Magazine.

A kindly old fellow, who was recently horrified by hearing a little man, scarcely out of petticoats, using some pretty strong language, called his ostensible guardian, a boy of ten or twelve, and said to him: "Did you hear the words your little brother was using?" "Course I did," replied the youngster, proudly. "But that ain't nothin' to what he kin do! Cuss for the gentleman, Jimmie!"

Belle—How do you and your mother like your new home? Beulah—We don't like the neighborhood. "Why not?" "Oh, we've been accustomed to seeing better looking clothes on the lines wash days."

The publicity given the affairs of the New Haven road leads to mind a little argument once had between Cy Warman, representing one railroad, and a representative of another. The contention of each was that his road was the longer of the two. Finally Warman was convinced that the road which paid him his salary was shorter than the other, whereupon he remarked: "Your railroad system may be, as you say, a few miles longer than ours, but your tracks, air—or any tracks, sir—are no wider than ours!"

One of the current weeklies carries a picture of a distinguished statesman entitled "President Wilson's first mistake." Now put on your guessing cap.

NEW YORK FROM THE SUBURBS.

Despite New York's intention to hold a perfectly sane Fourth of July celebration, Champ Clark is to deliver an oration there.—Chicago Daily News.

In cleaning up New York, Colonel Roosevelt may count on the help of A. Comstock for whatever it is worth.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

New York's health officer says there are at least 50 lepers walking the streets of the metropolis. Why doesn't Mr. Early go where he can be chummy?—Pittsburgh Gazette-Times.

New York is now getting greatly agitated over the prospect of a "five-cent phone." We lead, others follow.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

New York is to have a sane Fourth, or rather a Fourth as sane as any day in New York can be.—Detroit Free Press.

"It is said there are a thousand actors idle in New York, and yet Kansas is howling for 40,000 laborers to help harvest the wheat crop," says George Bailey in "The Houston Post." And we have no doubt the idle Thespians could not only make good money but they would look more at home in the wheat fields than on the stage.—Columbia Record.

BABIES' WEEK.



THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE INCOME TAX SHORTAGE

It is Due to a Wild Guessing by the Democratic Experts.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Our papers this morning printed the following telegram:

"Washington, June 17 (Special).—Discovery that the revenue from the income tax falls \$25,000,000 short of the amount estimated to be raised from it has spurred the Internal Revenue Bureau to redoubled activity in an effort to enforce the law."

The whole trouble connected with the decrease of the amount that is to be collected under the federal income tax law is chargeable to the incompetents in the Treasury Department at Washington. They pretended to "estimate" the amount that was to be paid. They had very little data to "estimate" with and simply "guessed" as to what it might be. Everybody who thinks knows they had scarcely any facts to "guess" on. They could tell something about what would come through corporate stock and interest on corporation bonds, and if time and care had been taken they could have got some help from county recorders as to interest received on land mortgages, and these were substantially all there was on which to "estimate" or to "guess."

They had no possible basis to estimate the salaries, wages or personal earnings of any person in the United States, saving perhaps as to salaries that were paid to their officers and employees by corporations—and I know from personal knowledge that many corporations refused to give any information as to this. After the "steal" was enacted into law the corporations might be forced to give this information, but they were not and could not be forced to give it to help the "estimators" to make up the "guess" that the Treasury Department dumped on to Congress. The value of the salaries and earnings of private individuals in the United States could not be ascertained any more than could earnings or salaries of private individuals in France or Germany.

The Congress was "buncoed" by the Treasury Department, and it now is trying to make the people believe that tax dodgers are at fault.

JAMES D. ROSS.

Chicago, June 18, 1914.

IS TWO HOURS' WORK ENOUGH?

The Estimate is a Little Low, According to One Socialist.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your June 18 issue "C. S." says he once heard a street corner "orator" of the socialist variety make the statement that no one should work more than two hours a day. He wants to know if this and the assertion that the police and the militia should not interfere in labor disputes is really a part of the socialist doctrine.

In the first place, this is not a part of the socialist doctrine, as suggested, but merely a statement of fact. It means simply this: Our present system is enormously wasteful. We have, for instance, at least five doctors where there should be one; we have many thousands of "attorneys at law" in New York City, where under proper conditions there would be little or no use for any of them. We have at least ten grocery stores, where one would serve every purpose equally as well, and so on through a long gamut of wastefulness. What the "orator" meant was that under socialism all this tremendous waste would be eliminated, and these men who are now performing labor which is of no particular value to the community would be put at useful and productive labor, and, under these conditions, it would only be necessary for each man to work two hours a day in order to do the work of the world.

Personally, the writer thinks this estimate is a little low, but most certainly four hours a day for each able-bodied citizen would more than suffice to perform the labor necessary to give us not only everything we now possess, but even more.

As to the question of the police and militia, the correspondent has misunderstood.

stood. The socialist simply demands that the police and militia be not used to oppress the people by forcing them to submit at the point of the gun where their contention is founded in justice, and with that proposition all right minded men and women must perform agree.

P. H. RICHARDSON.

New York, June 19, 1914.

CLINGING TO CARRANZA

A Reader Refuses to Credit Reports of Villa's Revolt.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The readiness with which the learned editors of your city, as well as the public, swallow these reports appearing regularly every new moon of an impending "break" between Villa and Carranza is indeed surprising.

It is hardly to be conceived that at this of all times, when victory lies within their grasp, Villa would disrupt the ranks of the Constitutionalists by deposing Carranza!

Also developments at Niagara Falls have borne out my repeated contention that in the hollow of Carranza's hand lies the settlement of the Mexican question, and the sooner the world recognizes this fact the sooner the dove of peace will find habitation below the Rio Grande.

Despite all the sensational reports set afloat by the adherents of Huerta and unduly ambitious newspaper correspondents, it is to be noted that Villa is still general in chief of the northern division of the rebel army and that Carranza is still holding forth as first chief at Saltillo, sawing wood as usual, while his enemies are talking.

Finally, once again, as on innumerable occasions in the past, in connection with this Mexican question, has it been demonstrated of how little value are the opinions of the wise and of those who supposedly speak with "authority," and that the simple, plain truth is the very last thing most of us desire to believe.

"O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

F. C. LOCKE.

Monticello, N. Y., June 19, 1914.

CHRISTIANITY AND PROGRESS

Good for Savages, but Not for Us, Is This Reader's Idea.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I fear Messrs. Cure and Fogel have not been comprehensive enough in their interpretation of the word "civilization." They palpably associate it with mere scientific advancement, but disregard the social element which the word embraces. Christianity conducted to better living, to a more rigid observance of the moral laws; therefore it was a civilizing agent.

Notice, I say "was," and not "is." To-day Christianity is no longer a civilizing force, for its work is being more effectually done through other mediums—general education, firm and stable social systems, with all their appendages; in short, we have attained such a degree of perfection that the civilizing strength of Christianity has almost completely deteriorated. In fact, Christianity, with its hackneyed ways and unbending dogmatism, to-day is antagonistic to reform and progress.

But Christianity was civilizing and beneficial to the savage, with his low intelligence, his wanton disregard of organized order and his susceptibility to superstition. The fear of burning hell inspired him with dread; the hope of salvation encouraged and stimulated him to do good. The negro has improved immensely since he has professed Christianity. His mind has been rendered more receptive; he is more subservient to law and order; a significant metamorphosis has taken place. Christianity exerted a most healthful and civilizing influence in his case.

However, when a certain degree of civilization has been reached Christianity loses its efficacy as a civilizing factor. I do not maintain that Christianity is nearly as important a civilizing factor as other things; for example, the dissemination of knowledge, keen competition, etc., but it did its share.

A. R. B.

Brooklyn, June 19, 1914.

CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE

They Are Explained Away by a Devout Student.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: May a subscriber say a few words in reference to a letter in your issue of June 11 entitled "Contradictions in the Bible"? The verses referred to are as follows:

1. No man hath seen God at any time (John 1, 18).
2. Ye have neither heard His voice, at any time, nor seen His shape (John v, 37).
3. And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend (Exodus xxxiii, 11).
4. And He said, thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live (Exodus xxxiii, 20).
5. For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved (Genesis xxxii, 30).

In all quotations the meaning is best ascertained by taking the extract in connection with what goes before and follows, and it is also helpful to know the circumstances under which the text was written.

John v, 37, is taken from an address of Jesus to those Israelites who were estranged from God, who considered religion to consist of certain observances—not in character, and not in knowing God as a loving father ready to help His children resist temptation and keep His commandments—and who had not followed what one of their great preachers had said: "What doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God."

In this address Jesus told them He had come as a messenger from their Father to be of help to them. They would not receive Him, and He asks them why they do not receive Him, as he does the same works as His Father and done and He represents His Father. He says the reason that you do not recognize Me as God's messenger is that you do not know your Father, or in the words of the address He says: "Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. And ye have not His word abiding in you."

John 1, 18, is part of a discourse by John referring to Jesus, and taken in connection with verses ix-xvii of the same chapter reads: "He came unto His own, and they that were His own received Him not. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." This appears to indicate that none of us has seen God or understood Him fully, but His Son has told us about Him, and by His life has revealed to us what God's character is, so that we know more about Him, but not fully. The verse appears to mean that we have not seen Him with our physical eyes but that our lives are such that we do not know and appreciate Him as He really is; as no disobedient child can fully understand a loving, just and helpful father, so through obedience we learn more fully what our Heavenly Father really is.

In reference to the other texts mentioned it should be borne in mind that the Israelites believed that they could not see God and live, although when He appeared in a human form they could speak to Him "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." This belief will explain the texts taken from the Old Testament.

In the scene described in Exodus xxxii, 11-20, Moses is worshipping with the children of Israel during their journey from Egypt to Syria. Moses had gone into the tent of meeting, for "every one that sought Jehovah went out unto the tent of meeting . . . and Jehovah spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh to a friend."

Genesis xxxii, 22-30, is an account of Jacob preparing to meet Esau, whom he had offended. The night before the meeting a man wrestled with him. If this was Jehovah it was when He assumed human form.

A. R. B.

Lenox, Mass., June 17, 1914.